

June 15, 2020

Approved 7/6/2020

MINUTES

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Pooler City Council was held on June 15, 2020. Mayor Rebecca Benton called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Present were Council Members Shannon Black, Aaron Higgins, Tom Hutcherson, Stevie Wall, John Michael Wilcher and Karen Williams-via telephone. City Manager Robbie Byrd, Finance Officer Chris Lightle and City Attorney Steve Scheer were also present.

Mayor Benton reminded the citizens of Pooler how important filing the 2020 census is and how it will impact the funding for the city of Pooler for the next ten years.

The invocation was given by Mayor Benton and Pledge of Allegiance was led by Council Member Wilcher.

Council Member Wall made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting for June 1, 2020. Motion was seconded by Council Member Higgins and passed without opposition.

Council Member Wall made a motion to approve the executive session minutes from June 1, 2020. Motion was seconded by Council Member Higgins and passed without opposition.

Report from the Departments:

PUBLIC WORKS

Robbie Byrd reported that the Street Department is continuing routine maintenance and 123.6 miles of streets were swept. The Water Department inspected 20 new construction meters and repaired a service lateral at 231 Rothwell Street. Storm Water is continuing maintenance along the Southwest area. The Savannah River Utilities continue working on Old Town Phase B. Waste Water Treatment Plant and Sewer Department are continuing routine maintenance. EOM is continuing routine maintenance.

FINANCE

Chris Lightle reported that the audit is in the final week. The City of Pooler has an 11.5% increase in the Tax Digest, total gross of 1.6 billion dollars, which will account for about six (6) million dollars in revenue for the City of Pooler.

FIRE

Chief Simmons reported 153 calls for the period of June 1st to June 14th, down 4% in call volume compared to last year. Year to date, 1,736 responses, down 4% compared to last year. Structure fires are still 13% higher than in the same period from last year.

POLICE

Chief Brown reported Part 1 crimes are back to pre-quarantine normal, averaging about 15, Part 1 crimes per week, a 21.6% reduction of Part 1 crimes for the year. There has been an increase in aggravated assault, with people living in the same household, rather than a stranger to stranger encounter.

RECREATION

Hugh Elton reported that the parks' green spaces and facilities are open, while the Senior Center remains closed. Following Governor Kemp's latest order, baseball tournaments, some dance and exercise classes are resuming, following the recommendations and guidelines from the governor's order, the NRPA and the CDC. The Parks Department has been performing routine maintenance.

BUILDING AND ZONING

Phillip Claxton reported the details of last month's permits and inspections to the Mayor and Council Members. The latest draft amendments to the zoning code were sent out, and he welcomed individual meetings and changes to the draft.

Under **OLD BUSINESS** the following was discussed:

A. Second Reading of An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 26, Article VII, Section 26-205 of the Municipal Code of the City of Pooler; To Repeal Conflicting Ordinances; To Set an Effective Date and Other Purposes

Mayor Benton opened the public hearing to satisfy the requirements of the GBI and closed it without any comments. Council Member Higgins made a motion to approve the ordinance on the Second Reading. Motion was seconded by Council Member Hutcherson and passed without opposition.

Under **NEW BUSINESS** the following was discussed:

A. Donation of Two Land Parcels to the City of Pooler from the Estate of Fred Wessels, Jr.

Mr. Byrd presented the donation from The Estate of Fred Wessels, Jr. The property is located adjacent to the Mega Site and consists of approximately 2.5 acres. Council Member Wall made a motion to approve the donation of two land parcels to the City of Pooler from The Estate of Fred Wessels, Jr. Motion was seconded by Council Member Black and passed without opposition.

B. Acceptance of the Utilities Easement Agreement & Bill of Sale- Publix Super Markets, Inc. #1584 Blue Moon Crossing

Mr. Byrd requested that this item be tabled per the city attorney. Council Member Wall made a motion to honor the request. Motion was seconded by Council Member Wilcher and passed without opposition.

C. County-Wide Canal Maintenance Programs-Agreement 5/27/2020

Mr. Byrd presented the automatic renewal of a five (5) year maintenance agreement between the City of Pooler and Chatham County to council. After some discussion, Council Member Wall made a motion to approve the agreement. Motion was seconded by Council Member Higgins and passed without opposition.

D. Site Plan for Pine Meadow Warehouse

Mr. Byrd presented a site plan for Pine Meadow Warehouse to council for approval. After some discussion, Council Member Wilcher made a motion to approve the site plan for Pine Meadow Warehouse, after review of the site plan standards. Motion was seconded by Council Member Hutcherson and passed without opposition.

E. Site Plan for Kurani Pooler Retail at 110 Southern Junction Blvd

Mr. Byrd presented a 10,015 sq. ft. site plan for approval to Council. Council Member Wilcher made a motion to approve the site plan after review of the site plan standards. Motion was seconded by Council Member Higgins and passed without opposition.

F. Acceptance of Maintenance Bond/Final Plat for Ellis Park, Phase 1 & 2

Mr. Byrd presented the maintenance bond in the amount of \$467,280.69 to council. A final inspection was completed on June 11, 2020. After some discussion, Council Member Wall made a motion to accept the maintenance bond and approve the final plat for Ellis Park, Phase 1 & 2, contingent upon approval from the city attorney. Motion was seconded by Council Member Black and passed without opposition.

Council Member Wall made a motion to add item F-1 to the agenda. Motion was seconded by Council Member Higgins and passed without opposition.

F-1. Release of Performance Bond for Ellis Park, Phase1 & 2

Council Member Wall made a motion to release the performance bond for Ellis Park, Phase 1 & 2. Motion was seconded by Council Member Higgins and passed without opposition.

G. Acceptance of Maintenance Bond/Final Plat for Westbrook Glen, Phase 1

Mr. Byrd presented the item to council. A final inspection was completed on June 11, 2020. Council Member Williams made a motion to accept the maintenance bond and approve the final plat for Westbrook Glen, Phase 1, subject to the bond being approved by the city attorney. Motion was seconded by Council Member Higgins and passed without opposition.

H. Site Plan for Savannah Quarters Office-Lot B

Mr. Byrd presented the item to council for approval, citing all the engineering comments that have been addressed, and the site plan has been revised per P & Z recommendation. Mr. John Farmer, the engineer for the project, presented the modifications made to the site plan. After some discussion, Council Member Hutcherson made a motion to approve the site plan for Savannah Quarters Office-Lot B, contingent upon the 10' cart path as noted on the site plan, being added to the existing 20-foot buffer, creating a 30' undisturbed buffer, with additional plantings. Motion was seconded by Council Member Williams and passed without opposition.

I. Zoning Map Amendment for 17.23 acres adjacent to 1335 S. Rogers from R-1A to R-A

Mayor Benton opened the public hearing Chelsea Henneman, the owner, presented her request to rezone approximately 17.23 acres, comprised of two (2) parcels. The intent is to use the property as a Canine Sports Center to train and exercise dogs. Attorney James B. Blackburn, Jr. on behalf of Larry Williams and William Baker, presented his clients' opposition to the rezoning. Mr. Williams, Mr. Baker, Ms. Patsy Mallard, Mr. Brad Craft and Mrs. Peggy Craft also appeared before Council and stated their opposition to the rezoning. Mrs. Maureen Tapley appeared before Council and asked for some limitations or restrictions if the rezoning is approved. Following some discussion and after review of the appropriate criteria, Council Member Black made a motion to approve the Zoning Map Amendment of 17.23 acres adjacent to 1335 S. Rogers Street from R-1A to R-A, contingent upon the 2nd driveway being accessed for customers. Motion was seconded by Council Member Wilcher and passed with opposition by Council Members Hutcherson and Williams.

Council Member Higgins made a motion to adjourn to Executive Session at approximately 7:50 p.m. to discuss, legal and/or real estate matters. Motion was seconded by Council Member Wilcher and passed without opposition.

Mayor Benton called the meeting back to order at 8:17 p.m.

Council Member Wilcher made a motion to add item J to the agenda. Motion was seconded by Council Member Higgins and passed without opposition.

Council Member Wilcher made a motion to add item K to the agenda. Motion was seconded by Council Member Wall and passed without opposition.

J. Amendment to the existing contract for the City Manager. Council Member Wilcher made a motion to approve the Amendment to the Existing City Manager's Employment Contract. Motion was seconded by Council Member Higgins and passed without opposition.

K. Agreement as to the Provision of City Attorney Legal Services for the City of Pooler, Georgia. Council Member Wilcher made a motion to approve the agreement, retroactive to January 1, 2020. Motion was seconded by Council Member Higgins and passed without opposition.

There being no further business to discuss, Council Member Higgins made a motion to adjourn at approximately 8:23 p.m. Motion was seconded by Council Member Wall and passed without opposition.


Rebecca Benton, Mayor

The foregoing minutes are true and correct and approved by me on this 6th day of July, 2020.

Attest:


Mahendra Mahabir, Clerk of Council